

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DOHA

S E C R E T BEIRUT 2010

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US SY LE
SUBJ: GENEVA CONFERENCE AND NEAR EASTERN SETTLEMENT

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MORNING APRIL 28 TO GIVE HIM BRIEFING ON KHADDAM VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN ACCORDANCE STATE 092393. HE SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THERE WERE FOUR PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN NEAR EASTERN SETTLEMENT: (1) PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA; (2) CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE OR ONE IN FEDERATION WITH JORDAN, (3) WITHDRAWAL, AND (4) NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES AFTER SETTLEMENT. WITH REGARD FIRST PROBLEM, HE HAD NOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ABOUT NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS BEFORE HOLDING GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE THOUGHT THESE REMARKS VERY WISE BECAUSE HE HIMSELF HAD MAINTAINED FROM BEGINNING THAT WE WOULD NOT GET A GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. PROBLEM WAS TOO COMPLICATED.

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2. I READ TO HIM PRESS GUIDANCE IN STATE 095350. HE SAID THAT WAS ALL VERY WELL AND HE WAS GLAD TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT WAS ENCOURAGED. NEVERTHELESS HE DID NOT THINK WE WERE GOING TO GET TO GENEVA IN 1977.

3. WE THEN DISCUSSED QUESTION OF SYRIAN PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION. HE SAID ONLY SYRIANS SUPPORTED IT AND NO ONE ELSE,

AND HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD FLY BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO GET ARABS TO AGREE ON UNIFIED POSITION. EVEN IF THEY AGREED IN ADVANCE THEY WERE LIKELY TO DISAGREE AT GENEVA. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ISSUE BUT IT HAD OCCURRED TO ME THAT UNIFIED DELEGATION MIGHT BE ONE WAY OF GETTING AROUND PROBLEM OF PLO REPRESENTATION. BOUTROS SAID IF THAT WAS SO WE SHOULD MAKE THAT POINT TO ARABS BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE STRONG ARGUMENT FOR UNIFIED DELEGATION.

4. BOUTROS ASKED WHAT WE ENVISAGED AS THE NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES. WOULD WE INSIST THAT THEY MUST HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY? I SAID AGAIN I DID NOT KNOW THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT BUT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WAS CONVINCED THAT IF ARABS WERE GOING TO GET ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR PEACE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE STEPS TO MAKE THAT PEACE TANGIBLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNATURE. ISRAELIS WERE NOT GOING TO SETTLE FOR JUST NON-BELLIGERENCY OR VAGUE PROMISES REGARDING FUTURE INTENTIONS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING IN THEIR HANDS AT THE TIME THEY SIGNED WITH THE ARABS. THIS MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY, BUT I SUSPECTED AS MINIMUM THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONCRETE MOVEMENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS TRAVEL, TRADE AND LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS. BOUTROS SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE ARABS WOULD HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING THIS.

5. BOUTROS THEN ASKED WHAT WE THOUGHT CHANCES FOR SETTLEMENT ON JERUSALEM WERE. I SAID IT OBVIOUSLY MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF TOTAL PROBLEM AND WAS SUBJECT OF GREAT EMOTIONAL TENSION ON BOTH SIDES. JORDANIANS HAD ESTABLISHED SUFFICIENTLY BAD RECORD

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IN THEIR OWN HANDLING OF JERUSALEM SO THAT ISRAELIS HAD GOOD CASE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL OPINION FOR REFUSAL TO RETURN CITY TO ARABS. EVEN INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PART OF CITY WAS ANATHEMA TO ISRAELIS.

6. BOUTROS SAID PROCESS WAS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT. I SAID WE HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THAT BUT COULD ASSURE HIM THAT WE WERE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SERIOUS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION AND, AS WE HAD NOTED, THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SERIOUS INTEREST OF ALL LEADERS OF THE AREA IN ESTABLISHING PEACE. IT WAS DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE AND WE WOULD DO OUR BEST.

PARKER

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